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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 1 MAY 51

SUBJECT Status of Factories in Suhl and Zella-Mehlis,
Thuringia

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE [REDACTED] 25X1A
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

Simson-Werke, Suhl, SAG Avtovelo. Formerly Gustloff-Werke. Production: Hunting shotguns, single, double and triple barreled (the latter has two shotgun barrels, and one rifle barrel adapted for a telescopic sight; 7.9 caliber hunting rifles with a five-round magazine, and with a mount for a telescopic sight; and bicycles. These products are delivered to SGC, Karlshorst.

Rate of production: 600 weapons, and 250-300 bicycles per day.

Management: a Russian director general, two Russian chief engineers, and a German director named Ender.

Number of workers: approximately 1,800 workers and office personnel, administered under the provisions of Order 234.

Installations: foundry, stamping mill, carpenter shops, assembly sheds, administration building, and testing range.

Machinery: most of the machinery is of 1936-1938 vintage, and is probably only 80 per cent efficient.

Total plant dimensions: about 250 x 700 meters.

Dimensions of area in use: about 250 x 350 meters.

Power: two old 12,000 kw MAN steam turbines in a boiler house. The steam pipes leading from the boilers to the turbines are built to withstand a pressure of 15 atmospheres. The return pipes are built for a pressure of four atmospheres.

Power consumption: 15,000 kw per day. The turbines are not working at full capacity because inferior lignite from the Saxony pits is used.

Power connections: with the Überlandwerkzentrale.

Railroad connections: sidings to the Heinrichswerk station.

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CLASSIFICATION

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Material suppliers: iron and steel from the Maximilianshütte, Unterwellenborn; ball bearings from Karl Rauch SAG, Suhl and Zella-Mehlis. (Rauch also supplies the VEB Avtovelo and other large Thuringian factories with bearings.)

Dismantling: four sheds, formerly used for weapons construction, were dismantled and destroyed; elsewhere in the plant, some machines were dismantled. The shed nearest the Heinrichswerk railroad station has been separated from the rest of the plant by a barbed wire fence and serves as a quarantine barracks for returnees.

Future Plans: production of small automobiles and light motorcycles.

2. Fortuna Werke, Suhl, VVB Mewa. Formerly I.P. Sauer & Sohn.

Production: hunting rifles and typewriters.

Rate of production: 70-80 rifles per day; and approximately 80 typewriters per day. These products are delivered partly to the Karlshorst export office and partly to the Weimar branch of Technoexport.

Management: the administration is all German, Reiff is the director.

Number of workers: approximately 800 workers and office personnel, administered under the provisions of Order 234.

Installations: two two-story buildings, 30 x 100 meters, which contain the rifle and typewriter assembly lines; one two-story administration building, 30 x 40 meters; one one-story building which contains the small foundry and boiler installations and is 30 x 75 meters.

Machinery: probably 70 to 80 per cent efficient.

Plant dimensions: 150 x 200 meters.

Power: no production at the plant, the boilers are used for heating purposes only. Power is obtained from the Breitungten steam plant, which has a total output of 24,000,000 kw per month.

Railroad connections: none.

Material suppliers: iron and steel from Stahl-und Walzwerk, Hennigsdorf; screws from the Mercedes plant, Zella-Mehlis; and optical parts from an unidentified Jena firm.

Dismantling: no buildings were demolished, but 40 per cent of the machinery was removed.

3. Ernst-Thälmann-Werke, Suhl, VVB, Mewa. Formerly Hühnel.

Production: bicycles, bicycle trailers, and baby carriages.

Rate of production: approximately 450 bicycles, 150 trailers, and 250 baby carriages per day. These products are delivered as follows: 80 per cent to the Soviet Export Office in Weimar and 20 per cent to the Thuringian government for prize awards to workers.

Management: the administration is all German, Appel is director.

Number of workers: 1,100 workers and office personnel, administered under the provisions of Order 234.

Plant dimensions: 250 x 250 meters.

Power: Diesel generator, 5,000 to 6,000 kw per day; the boiler is used only for the production of heat.

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Power: outside power connection for auxiliary use only.

Railroad connections: none.

Dismantling: no demolition of the buildings; some machinery was dismantled, especially the precision machinery and the machinery concerned with the production of armaments.

4. Mercedes-Bromaschinen-Werke, Zella-Mehlis, VVB Mechanik. The enterprise which consists of three separate plants, delivers its total output to Technoexport as reparations. No dismantling has been effected.

Management: Merz is the director.

Number of workers: 2,500 workers and office personnel, administered under the provisions of Order 234.

Dismantling: none.

Plant I: on both sides of the highway leading out of Zella-Mehlis toward Weiningen. Approximately 1,100 workers are employed, and they produce from 180 to 200 typewriters per day.

Plant II: situated about 800 meters from the Zella-Mehlis railroad station, on the left-hand side of the Erfurt line. About 1,100 workers are employed and produce 120 to 150 adding and bookkeeping machines per day.

Plant III: located in Zella-Mehlis on the road to Oberhof. About 300 workers are employed in the manufacture of nuts and bolts.

5. August-Bebel-Werke, Zella-Mehlis, VVB WMW. Formerly Röhms.

Production: precision tools (micrometer screws, thread gauges, spindles), machine tools, lathe parts and stretching machines. The products are delivered to the state government, 80 per cent is for reparations.

Management: there are no Russians employed in the plant. Bartelme is the director.

Number of workers: approximately 600 workers and office personnel, administered under the provisions of Order 234.

Installations: one three-story building which houses the machinery and the assembly lines and is 30 x 80 meters; one one-story administration building and storehouse which is 30 x 110 meters; and one one-story assembly line shed which is 30 x 70 meters.

Machinery: there are some new units and the pre-war machinery is assessed at 80 per cent efficient.

Power: from outside line.

Material suppliers: Maximilianhütte, Unterwellenborn.

Raw materials: 7 to 8 tons consumed per day.

Dismantling: some machines were removed but were later replaced, partly with machines from other plants and partly with new machines manufactured on the premises.

6. Herman Weihrauch, Zella-Mehlis. This plant is under the trusteeship of Arthur Harb.

Production: tools of an unspecified nature.

Number of workers: 200 administered under the provisions of Order 234.

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Installations: one two-story building, 20 x 70 meters.

Power: from an outside power line.

The ball-bearing manufacturing shops which formerly belonged to this plant have been transferred to the Karl Rauch SAG.

E-3 7. Andreas Jopp, Zella-Mehlis.*

Production: bicycle parts.

Number of workers: 300 administered under the provisions of Order 234.

Power: from an outside line.

Dismantling: The plant was partly dismantled.

8. The Jäger & Co. plant in Suhl has been completely dismantled and partly demolished. Waffenfabrik Walther and I.G. Anschütz in Zella-Mehlis have also been completely dismantled and largely demolished. The Wiesner AG.* plant in Zella-Mehlis has been stripped of its machinery, but the buildings have been assigned to expellees to house their small carpenter shops, dyeing establishments, etc. None of the workers of the above-mentioned enterprises were deported to the East.

25X1A " ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: The Andreas Jopp plant and the Wiesner AG. are listed as part of the Meteor-Werk, VVB (L) Maschinen Elektro-West.

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